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Diana T Fritz 03/21/2007 05:44:24 PM From DB/Inbox: Search Results

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Text:

UNCLASSIFIED

SIPDIS  
TELEGRAM

June 09, 2003

To: No Action Addressee  
Action: Unknown  
From: AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI (ABU DHABI 2734 - ROUTINE)  
TAGS: OIIP, KPAO  
Captions: None  
Subject: MEPI: UAE MEDIA TRAINING WORKSHOP ON NEWS, FEATURES,  
AND ANALYTICAL WRITING  
Ref: None

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UNCLAS ABU DHABI 02734

SIPDIS  
CXABU:  
ACTION: AMB  
INFO: PAO POL DCM ECON  
Laser1:  
INFO: PAO

DISSEMINATION: AMB  
CHARGE: PROG

APPROVED: ADCM:TWILLIAMS  
DRAFTED: PAO:TPONCE  
CLEARED: PAO:KVANDEVATE

VZCZCADI512  
RR RUEHC RUEHXX  
DE RUEHAD #2734 1600504  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
R 090504Z JUN 03  
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 0312  
INFO RUEHXX/ARAB ISRAELI COLLECTIVE

UNCLAS ABU DHABI 002734

SIPDIS

STATE FOR NEA/PPD (WMOONEY, JDAVIES, DMACINNES,  
ACASPER); NEA/PI (CBOURGEOIS); NEA/RA; NEA/ARP  
(LMALENAS, DJONES); NEA/FO; PA; IIP/T/GIC (JBOCHNER,  
WPETERS)

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: [OIIP](#) [KPAO](#) [TC](#)  
SUBJECT: MEPI: UAE MEDIA TRAINING WORKSHOP ON NEWS,  
FEATURES, AND ANALYTICAL WRITING

1. SUMMARY: UNDER THE MEPI GOAL OF PROMOTING A MORE  
PROFESSIONAL AND INDEPENDENT MEDIA, VETERAN JOURNALIST  
PAUL MILLER CONDUCTED TWO, WEEK-LONG "NEWS, FEATURES AND  
ANALYTICAL WRITING" WORKSHOPS FOR THE STAFF OF THE  
EMIRATES NEW AGENCY. MR. MILLER COMPARED WESTERN AND  
ARAB MEDIA SOURCES AND FOCUSED ON IMPROVING BASIC AND  
INTERMEDIATE MEDIA SKILLS, SUCH AS DEVELOPING ANALYTICAL  
SKILLS AND USING MULTIPLE SOURCES AND PERSPECTIVES. AS  
PAS ABU DHABI WORKS HARD TO PLACE USG POLICIES IN THE  
UAE PRESS, THIS MEPI WORKSHOP OPENED MINDS AND DOORS IN

THE UAE GOVERNMENT'S OFFICIAL WIRE SERVICE AND BEYOND. THE RESULTS AUGUR WELL FOR THE SUCCESS OF FUTURE MEDIA TRAINING IN THE UAE. END SUMMARY.

12. FURTHER TO POST'S PROPOSAL TO IBRAHIM AL ABED, HEAD OF THE EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY (WAM) AND CLOSE ADVISOR TO MINISTER OF INFORMATION SHEIKH ABDULLAH BIN ZAYED AL NAHYAN, PAS ABU DHABI ORGANIZED A MEDIA TRAINING WORKSHOP FOR WAM JOURNALISTS AND EDITORS. MR. AL ABED DESCRIBED WAM'S PRIMARY GOAL FOR THE WORKSHOP AS TRAINING THEIR UAE NATIONAL JOURNALISTS AND EDITORS, WHO OFTEN LACK THE SKILLS OF THEIR ARAB EXPATRIATE COUNTERPARTS. HE ENCOURAGED MR. MILLER TO EXPRESS HIMSELF FREELY, TO COMPARE WESTERN AND ARAB MEDIA METHODS, AND TO WORK ON DEVELOPING THE ANALYTICAL AND PRACTICAL SKILLS NECESSARY TO CRAFT A PROFESSIONAL WIRE SERVICE STORY.

13. FROM MAY 17 TO 28, VETERAN US JOURNALIST PAUL MILLER CONDUCTED TWO WEEK-LONG MEDIA TRAINING SESSIONS FOR THE WAM ABU DHABI AND DUBAI STAFFS. APPROXIMATELY FORTY JUNIOR AND MID-LEVEL UAE NATIONAL AND ARAB EXPATRIATE JOURNALISTS PARTICIPATED. MR. MILLER DESCRIBED THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN HARD NEWS REPORTING, OPINION WRITING, AND FEATURE ANALYSIS, BUT GAVE SPECIAL ATTENTION TO PROMOTING ANALYTICAL AND CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS IN DEVELOPING NEWS STORIES. DURING THE TRAINING, MR. MILLER REGULARLY URGED THE JOURNALISTS AND EDITORS PRESENT TO DRAW UPON BOTH ARAB AND WESTERN MEDIA TO PRODUCE OBJECTIVE, FACTUAL REPORTS. DAILY TOPICS INCLUDED "HOW TO WRITE A HARD NEWS STORY", "HOW TO WRITE A NEWS LEAD," AND "ELIMINATING BIAS IN REPORTING."

14. RESULT/IMPACT: OUTSTANDING. MR. AL-ABED AND WAM PARTICIPANTS PRAISED THE WORKSHOP AND PLEDGED TO IMPLEMENT MR. MILLER'S TRAINING IMMEDIATELY. WHILE THE IMPACT OF THIS WORKSHOP ON WAM WILL BE JUDGED OVER TIME, ITS BENEFIT AS A PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE IS ALREADY SPREADING TO THE UAE'S OTHER MEDIA OUTLETS. AT THEIR REQUEST, PAS ABU DHABI INTRODUCED MR. MILLER TO THE SENIOR MANAGEMENT OF ABU DHABI TV, DUBAI TV (DTV), AND AL-ARABIYAH SATELLITE TV. ALL WERE IMPRESSED, MOST NOTABLY DTV ADMINISTRATORS, WHO PROGRAMMED MR. MILLER ON-THE-SPOT FOR A WEEKEND WORKSHOP WITH NEWS AND BUSINESS EDITORS. MILLER IS ALREADY SCHEDULED TO RETURN TO DUBAI LATER THIS MONTH TO ADVISE ON OVERHAULING THEIR ENTIRE OPERATION AND TO PROVIDE FURTHER TRAINING. COUPLED WITH OTHER TRAINING REQUESTS FROM ABU DHABI TV AND AL-ARABIYAH, THE IMPACT OF THIS WORKSHOP WILL BE FAR-REACHING.

WAHBA